

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: June 9, 2000

Apricots - *Apricot* production for 2000 is forecast at 95,000 tons, up approximately 12% from the 1999 crop of 85,000 tons. Bearing acres are estimated at 19,000. Set differed widely among orchards this year following a variable bloom. During April, hail storms hit a majority of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Early season varieties, which have already begun harvest, are a little better than first expected. Fruit sizes thus far are normal.

Sweet Cherries - The 2000 California *sweet cherry* crop is forecast at 45,000 tons, down 38% from the 1999 crop. Bearing acreage is estimated at 19,000 acres. California's cherry season began with irregular blooming and even reblooming on some trees. This resulted in irregular fruit set and harvest has been extended because fruit is not all maturing at the same time. Scattered rain caused damage to some orchards while sparing others. Overall the early varieties received the bulk of the rain damage. Quality of the remaining fruit is good.

Peaches - The 2000 California *Freestone peach* crop is forecast at a record high 420,000 tons, up 11% from last year's crop. Bearing acres is estimated at 39,000. Yield calculates to 10.77 tons per acre. The freestone peach crop continues to progress smoothly, as near ideal conditions persist. Harvest and movement of early season were in full swing. California's *Clingstone peach* crop is forecast at 560,000 tons this year, up 6% from 1999. Bearing acreage is estimated at 29,400 with a resulting yield of 19.05 tons per acre. Favorable weather has contributed to positive fruit development. Fruit set is heavy and fruit size is small. There has been some mildew reported in the Modesto area, but overall, the 2000 crop remains in good condition.

Bartlett Pears - The initial forecast of the 2000 *Bartlett pear* crop in California is 280,000 tons, down 4% from last year. Bearing acres are estimated to be 15,000. The spring weather has been good for Bartlett pear fruit quality. Maturity development is normal for June 1. Fruit size is good, but tree set is down.

Prunes - The 2000 California *prune* production is forecasted at 200,000 tons, up 12% from the State's 1999 total production. Bearing acreage is estimated at 86,000 acres, up 4% from the previous year. Yield calculates to 2.33 dried tons per acre. The 2000 prune season is progressing well. The Northern and Central prune growing areas are experiencing a heavier fruit set than the previous year. The Southern area is slightly lighter than last year.

Wheat - *Winter Wheat* production in California is forecast at 861,000 tons, unchanged from last month and down 1% from 1999. Forecast yield is 2.46 tons per acre with harvested acres at 350,000. *Durum wheat* production in California is forecast as 216,600 tons, unchanged from last month and down 19% from 1999. Forecast yield is 2.85 tons per acre with harvested acres estimated at 76,000. Crop condition was good to excellent in the Imperial valley and fair to good in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvest in the Imperial Valley began in earnest in early May. Warm, dry weather has matured the crop rapidly. San Joaquin Valley harvest was underway on a few fields by mid May.

The next production report will be issued on July 12, 2000.